

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 6, 2003

LB 283, 285, 602
LR 87-92

Chambers has amendments to LB 283, Senator Beutler to LB 602. Study resolution: Senator Kremer, LR 87, LR 88, LR 89; Senator Schimek, LR 90, LR 91, and LR 92. All of those study resolutions all will be referred to the Executive Board. (Legislative Journal pages 1640-1648.)

Mr. President, with respect to LB 285 and the committee amendments, Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM1732. (Legislative Journal pages 1649-1654.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, I want to throw out to you another idea, not to be dealt with at this particular point in time, but I wanted to introduce the idea to you because it is an \$11 million revenue piece that might fit in here or on Senator Brashear's bill along the way. We have in Nebraska, and it was brought to my attention by Senator Mines actually, by Senator Mines' bill, a corporate registration fee, and the corporate registration fee is a fee that's paid annually by corporations. Senator Mines, you may recall, earlier had a bill that said, instead of paying it annually, we'd pay it once every two years, and we've advanced that bill. I think the Governor has probably signed it by now. I'm not sure. The total revenue amount didn't change in Senator Mines' bill, but we just collected it once every two years instead of every year. Well, when that bill was going through, I noticed that there was a section that said for the years 1993 and '94, the tax shall be increased to, and it was increased very substantially in those two years. All that language was crossed out in Senator Mines' bill because it was no longer pertinent, but what it was, was that back in those years Senator Warner increased these fees temporarily in order to help us through another fiscal crisis. And these fees...I'm passing out a sheet to you. You can take a look at what the fees were and what they would be. These fees haven't been increased permanently since 1982 and if you wanted to raise...if you wanted to increase the fees just by inflation, that would be an 86 percent increase in the fee. If you wanted to do that just for two years, that would raise \$11 million. The fee is based,